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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 JANUARY 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Bakersfield – School District working with FBI and DHS Following Cyber Attack

(U) The Panama-Buena Vista School District said they are working closely with the FBI and DHS following a ransomware attack last week. The district was hit with a ransomware attack that caused a technology and phone outage at multiple schools. The district sent a message update to parents and staff yesterday saying ongoing investigations into this attack show no indications that any personally identifying information relating to students or staff was compromised.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [ABC 23](#)

(U) Orangevale – Vandals Paint Swastika at Sikh House of Worship

(U) The Sacramento County Sheriff's office is investigating a case of vandalism at a Sikh house of worship. Vandals painted a swastika and wrote white power on a sign in front of Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara Sahib. The sheriff's office is investigating this as a hate crime. Deputies helped clean up the vandalism. The FBI's latest annual report on hate crimes shows a 200% spike in anti-Sikh violence in the US compared to 2017.

SOURCE: 13 January 2020, [CBS 13](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Border Patrol Seizes \$2M Worth of Drugs

(U) Tucson – US Customs and Border Protection officers arrested five people connected to three separate alleged attempts to smuggle more 657 pounds of methamphetamine, heroin, hash oil and fentanyl. The search of an RV, after a positive alert by a narcotics detection canine led to the discovery of nearly 70 packages of drugs hidden within the floor of the RV. The drugs were determined to be nearly 465 pounds of methamphetamine, worth nearly \$767,000. Also seized were more than two pounds of heroin, worth \$21,000; nearly 51 pounds of hash oil, worth more than \$923,000 and nearly three pounds of fentanyl, worth more than \$30,000. Officers searched a truck and discovered more than 115 pounds of meth inside of the fuel tank. The drugs have an estimated value of more than \$190,000. A second truck was searched after a positive alert by a CBP canine led to the removal of more than 20 packages of drugs from beneath the seat belt housings. The packages contained nearly 21 pounds of meth, worth nearly \$35,000.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) California – Border Patrol Arrests Boy with Drugs Strapped to Body

(U) Jamul – A 14-year-old boy has been arrested at a California border checkpoint of Mexico with three bundles of crystal methamphetamine strapped to his body. The boy, two other teens and an adult driver were arrested after a car was stopped at the State Route 94 checkpoint, and a drug-sniffing dog gave an alert. A secondary inspection of the four people in the car found the 14-year-old had 3.31 pounds of meth under his clothing. Another 50.71 pounds of meth were found in plastic-wrapped packages inside three backpacks in the car. The drugs had an estimated street value of \$102,000.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

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(U) NATIONAL**(U) Florida – Man Pleads Guilty to Threatening Hispanics**

(U) Miami – A Maryland man pleaded guilty yesterday to posting threats on Facebook that he planned to kill Hispanics in Florida and elsewhere. Court records show 35-year-old Eric Lin of Clarksburg, Maryland, admitted in Miami federal court that he sent threatening communications in interstate commerce between May and August 2019. Lin faces up to five years in federal prison at his March 2020 sentencing. Evidence shows Lin made several threatening posts, including plans to kill a Florida resident and to kill all Hispanics in Miami and other places.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Virginia – Man Charged in Swatting Ring Linked to Neo-Nazis

(U) Alexandria – US DOJ has charged a former college student with calling in fake emergencies to prompt law enforcement response, in coordination with a group the FBI labeled as sympathetic to neo-Nazi ideology. John William Kirby Kelley, 19, was charged last week with conspiracy to make threats. He's accused of being part of a network that shared racist views and had disdain for African Americans and Jewish people, targeting such individuals in so-called swatting attacks coordinated in online chatrooms. Swatting is a practice in which fake emergencies are called in to authorities to draw a large law enforcement response.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Washington – NSA Finds Major Security Flaw in Windows 10

(U) Redmond – The National Security Agency has discovered a major security flaw in Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system that could allow hackers to intercept seemingly secure communications. Microsoft released a free software patch to fix it yesterday and credited the agency for discovering the flaw. The company said it has not seen any evidence that hackers have used the technique discovered by the NSA. Microsoft said an attacker could exploit the vulnerability by spoofing a code-signing certificate, so it looked like a file came from a trusted source.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Kosovo – Repatriated Man and Woman Charged with Terror**

(U) Pristina – Prosecutors in Kosovo filed terrorism charges against an Albanian woman and a man for allegedly joining ISIS in Syria. A prosecutors' office statement said the defendant woman identified as V.K. and the man identified as F.D. left Kosovo in March 2015 to first go to neighboring Skopje, North Macedonia, and then to Turkey where they crossed the Syrian border to join ISIS until early 2019 when they handed themselves over to Kurdish forces. In April 2019, they were part of a group of 110 Kosovo citizens repatriated from Syria. Both are charged with organization and participation in a terror group. If convicted, they could face prison sentences of up to 15 years.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Niger – ISIS Claims Responsibility for Army Base Attack

(U) Dakar – A West Africa ISIS affiliate claimed responsibility for an attack on an army base in Niger last week that killed at least 89 Nigerien soldiers. The ISIS West Africa Province (ISWAP) said in the

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statement that its fighters killed 100 soldiers and wounded an unspecified number of others in the raid on the base in the town of Chinagodrar, near the Malian border.

SOURCE: 14 January 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) United Arab Emirates – US Warns Vessels Transiting Persian Gulf Amid Tensions with Iran

(U) Dubai – The United States yesterday warned of threats to commercial vessels in and around the Persian Gulf in the wake of its confrontation with Iran. Tensions have soared since the US airstrike earlier this month that killed General Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general and the architect of its regional military activities. Iran responded by firing ballistic missiles at US troops in Iraq, without wounding anyone, and accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner near Tehran, killing all 176 on board.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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